

**St. Clare's
Episcopal Church**

Saint Clarian

Worship with Joy, Grow in Faith, Act for Justice

monthly newsletter

Dear Ones,

In the month of my twentieth anniversary of ordination number two (to the priesthood), I am mindful of blessings and challenges the Episcopal Church faced then and now, and how our circumstances have changed. In 1992 we were beginning the economic “roaring nineties” and there would soon be no budget deficit in Washington. The Episcopal Church, like the American auto manufacturers then, was over-confident in its identity and prospects because of love for our heritage, and the way we benefited from waning cultural assumptions that encouraged church attendance and belonging.

Our pride and comfort were the two chief barriers to our growth in God. I began my ministry in one of the richest zip-codes in the U.S., in the heart of southern California, northern San Diego County. I was an “E.F.M.” mentor, the leader of the most serious Biblical and Theological education program the Episcopal Church has yet devised. I saw how revolutionary and fruitful for their lives, their ministry, and their parish is the process of appropriating Scripture, and encountering God more deeply for themselves. Successful, smart, often privileged E.F.M. participants became more spiritual and more active followers of Christ, and it has fundamentally changed the Episcopal Church for the good. It is one reason we did not fracture or falter in our spiritually and theologically inspired embrace of same sex relationships and people as beloved members of our church. But the program was “too highbrow” to hit a broad audience, as was the Episcopal Church in the U.S. then, in general.

I also did youth ministry, and met a youth minister who had grown up in San Diego and was working in St. Paul, Minnesota, named Jayin Wavrik. We went to something called “Happening” together, a weekend event for senior high youth, led by senior high youth, and it changed our lives, as it has positively changed the whole Episcopal Church. Happening hits teenagers fairly universally, and is a good model for what happens when we invite God into our lives, our service, and our church more deeply: more life, more chaos, more inventive broadness and persistence and hope.

Last month I mentioned Happening in my newsletter article, also. After twenty years of experience with it, I can tell you that it produces more deeply committed lay leaders who are still younger adults, and more clergy vocations than anything else. It is the chief reason I am sure we will not fail as a church to be about becoming the followers as Episcopalians that God needs for the future, not the past, even though some individual parishes will go under in our lifetimes. I thought our recent Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation service with Bishop Gibbs was the most inspiring such service I have ever attended, and I am grateful for the movement of God I see in the lives of each person making an adult commitment to living their faith as joyful Episcopalians.

The real project for all of us is “living the mission” of God as followers of Christ for whom high expectations of the effects of God’s love on our brains and our behavior allows us to participate in what God is up to in the world with or without us. This is rife with specifics that a one page letter does not allow me to focus on in depth, but here is what I see as our challenge today, twenty years into ordained ministry: being humbled by God, giving ourselves more deeply to God, giving ourselves space to hear the voice of God (avoiding 24/7 digital ‘on-ness’ and a schedule that isolates us and makes us too busy and tired). Asking ourselves how we can learn to be more prayerful, trusting in grace, servant-hearted people, and having the intimate community of fellow followers we need to be likely to help us make progress in all these efforts to move beyond privilege and comfort, to the life of God instead.

In Christ’s love,

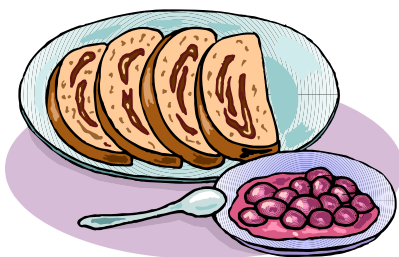


NEWS & EVENTS

Breakfast at St. Clare’s Café

NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE

St. Clare’s Café will serve breakfast on **January 13th**. Make a donation, enjoy a filling, buffet breakfast with fellow St. Clarians between 8:30 and 10:30, and proceeds will benefit the youth program. Mark your calendars for all of this year’s cafés - January 13, February 3, March 3, April 7 and May 12



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Epiphany Open House

It's a tradition! Pete & Peg's annual Epiphany open house falls on Epiphany this year, January 6. This is an opportunity to socialize, schmooze, meet, see, and talk with friends both old and new (and the food is good, too). Mark your calendars:



Sunday, January 6, 2013, from 2 to 5 p.m., for Pete & Peg's annual Epiphany open house.

- Pete & Peg Ross

Opportunity for Baptism

The next occasion for baptism will be **Epiphany, January 6**. If you are interested in baptism for your child or yourself please speak to James or Beth.

The Bible: a Revelation of Love and Reconciliation

A workshop to learn how to confidently discuss Scripture with others who see "it" differently

You would have been proud of St. Clare's youth on last summer's mission trip, who had civil but intense conversations about faith and Scripture with new friends who don't see things as St. Clarians do. These youth requested that St. Clare's have a class for adults and youth to help us be more confident in utilizing Scripture in conversation with those who want to use it "against."

On Saturday, January 12, from 2 to 5 pm, the Revs. James Rhodenhiser and Beth Scriven will hold a one time session for adults and youth to give you resources to use to help you grow in confidence and understanding of the Bible as the revelation of love, tenacity, and reconciliation.

The Bible: a Revelation . . . continued

Topics covered will include sexuality (including same-sex attraction and relationships), money, divorce, violence, evolution, and kindness. You will receive handouts and coaching to help you prepare your own appropriation of Scripture in words of your own faith so that you will be ready to experience the truth of the words that "love covers a multitude of sins."

We'll meet at St. Clare's in rooms 7 & 8. Please sign up in advance on-line so we know how many to expect:

<http://www.saintclareschurch.org/workshop>

Red Cross Blood Drive

Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood is sponsoring a blood drive on

Saturday, January 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is always a need for blood and only volunteer donors can fulfill that

need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

Schedule an appointment at: <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>, sponsor code "TBE".



Prayer Partner Pizza and Pool Party

Prayer Partners, please mark your calendar for our second annual Prayer Partner Pizza and Pool Party, 6 to 8 pm on Saturday, January 26. This is a great opportunity to get in out of the cold and share some fun with other youth and adult Prayer Partners. We will have pizza and goodies for all, games for the non-swimmers, and an awesome salt water pool for the water loving. Make sure to bring your swimsuit, pool toys, and a favorite game to play. A huge thank you to Jessica and Adam Lowen for hosting this event again this year.

- Erin Ranville and Kevin Morgan

St. Clare's Variety Show 2013!

Yes, it's TRUE! Save the date. St. Clare's 2013 Variety Show will be on Saturday, February 2, from 7-8:30 pm.

FAQ

Q: Is this a talent show?

A: No, we cannot actually promise talent, though there is usually some. But we can promise variety!

Q: Where will it be held?

A: In the Sanctuary.

Q: What kind of acts will there be?

A: Past Variety Shows have featured magicians, musical soloists, skits, musical ensembles, and the legendary St. Clare's All-Girl Tableau Vivant Society's depiction of The Last Supper. This has also been an occasion for the church-goers of St. Clare's to be schooled by Miss Manners in the proper manner in which to conduct worshipful deportment. Oh, and once God called on a cell phone.

Q: What ages are appropriate?

A: All Ages! The point is to have rollicking fun for the whole parish family.

Q: How do I participate?

A: Gather your dear ones, your choir-mates, your cell group, or your multiple personalities around you and plan an act. Check with Kathy Daly (kthdaly@gmail.com) or Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos (phoebe.gelzer.govatos@gmail.com) to be sure there is room for your act on the program.

Q: How do I get on the planning committee?

A: Same way. Contact Kathy or Phoebe.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: There will be a free will offering for our Food Pantry.

Q: Refreshments?

A: Sure, can you bring something?

Q: Caveats?

A: All acts to be church appropriate, please. (Miss Manners said we had to say that.)

Ask some of the longtime St. Clarians for stories from past events to get a flavor of the evening. Please participate, please attend! You'll be glad you did.

– Kathy Daly

Miss
Manners at
the 2012 St.
Clare's
Variety
Show



Pulpit Switch

James Rhodenhiser will preach to Temple Beth Emeth at 7:30 on Friday night, February 8. One of TBE's rabbis will preach at St. Clare's 10:30 service on Sunday, February 10.

We have a fine tradition of some of each congregation's members visiting the other



congregation for worship at these services. If you haven't been to Temple Beth Emeth's Shabbat service, this is a great time to experience their wonderful worship service.

SAVE THE DATE

- Tuesday, February 12
5-7 pm: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Wednesday, February 13
Ash Wednesday services (noon, 5:30, 7:30)
- Sunday, March 10
6 pm: Chili Cook-Off
- Saturday-Sunday, April 27-28
Genesis Work Days
- Sunday, May 5
St. Clare's Second Annual Outreach Sunday

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting & Luncheon

St. Clare's Annual Meeting will follow the 10:30 service on **Sunday, January 27**. Lunch will be served. Join us! We will review the budget, elect vestry members and representatives to Diocesan Convention and St. Clare's representative to the Genesis Board, and discuss other parish business.

Annual Report

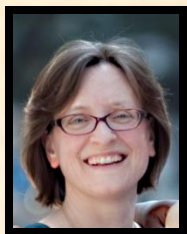
Staff and commission / committee chairs should submit a report to be included in St. Clare's Annual Report. Please send by email to karen@saintclareschurch.org no later than January 15.

Nominees for Vestry

Vestry terms for **Jim Downward**, **Pete Ross**, **Karen Slagell**, and **Bill Tucker** will end at the 2013 Annual Meeting, and we thank them wholeheartedly for their service. The following people have graciously agreed to serve on the Vestry, should they be selected for one of the four open seats.



Mark Davis-Craig: I've been attending Episcopal church services at least 50 weeks per year since 1989, when my boss cajoled me into coming to church choir practice. It never dawned on me that they'd then expect me to sing at church on Sunday. Since then, fortunately, I have learned better predictive analysis skills. I'm a nine o'clocker, serving as a verger. I've been a church school teacher for four of the past five years. I'm one of the St. Clarians who goes to Haiti, having been three times. Working in Haiti is a very important ministry for me. It has helped me in my personal fight against the institutional and structural racism I learned growing up in the United States. I'm the current host of the Moon over Mirebalais fall fundraiser for Haiti. I was on the vestry at St. Andrew's in the 90's and held a diocesan elected office at that time. My partner Lisa and I have two kids: Libby (17) and Robby (14). I work at U-M in IT, where I'm a "numbers guy" doing data analysis and project management. The members of the vestry perform an important ministry on behalf of the whole parish. They are a few members of the whole body. My goal on the vestry is simply to be one of the representatives of the parish. I don't have an agenda. I will listen to parishioners and listen to God and make the choices I'm called to make.



Christine Modey: I have been a member of St. Clare's for ten years. My family (Barry, Lucy, Rorie, and Ivy Fuller) and I have found it to be a wonderful community for worship, spiritual growth, and service. I served a previous term on the vestry (2006-08) and have participated in many youth and adult spiritual formation activities, including parish retreats, youth pilgrimages, a youth mission trip, cell groups, and Disciples. Although I took a recent "leave of absence" from active ministry after Ivy's birth in February 2011, my passion for ministry is helping adults grow in faith, strengthening community, and welcoming newcomers. I look forward to being more engaged once again through vestry service. I teach writing at the University of Michigan.



Adam Lowen: I have been a member of Saint Clare's since 2008, when I joined the congregation along with my wife, Jessica, and our young daughter, Madeline. I am running for Vestry because I want to ensure that our community is present, relevant, and vibrant for future generations. At Saint Clare's, I participate in the Un-Group and activities for young families. I serve our community as the Chair of the Stewardship Commission (2012-present), as a volunteer at Alpha House (2009-present), and by helping Jessica at the monthly breakfast event, St. Clare's Café (2010-present). I am a licensed Michigan Attorney and Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch in Ann Arbor. Prior to law school (2006-2009), I had a five-year career in financial compliance in my home state of Oregon. I have lived all of my life in the Anglican faith. The son of church musicians, I attended a small Anglican Catholic parish as a child and later joined Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Eugene, Oregon where my mother is the Music Director. When I am not worshiping, working, or volunteering, I spend time exercising and hanging out with friends and family. I enjoy baseball, brewing beer, and playing my trumpet, especially jazz. An avid whitewater rafter, I was raised in the Pacific Northwest where diversity, healthy living, and concern for the environment are a way of life. I am eager to strengthen my relationships with my fellow parishioners and I encourage people to contact me with any questions or concerns at lowenadam@comcast.net.



Mary Wright: I started attending St. Clare's in 2009, when our family moved within Ann Arbor to the neighborhood north of the church. I have been grateful ever since for the community, especially the musical and youth programming. Our daughter, Laura (10) has found a real home at the church, and I am thankful for the nurturing that St. Clare's has provided her as a children's choir member, a member of FSG, and as an acolyte. I have served on the Children & Youth Commission, worked front of the house for St. Clare's Cafe, taken part in many volunteer ministries of the church (such as our ministry at Alpha House), and participated in the Disciples program with my husband, Russ Olwell. I work at U-M in its teaching center (CRLT), a very fulfilling job that I have held for ten years.

Nominee for the Genesis Board

Mary Lu Barth has accepted a nomination to serve on the Genesis Board.



I began attending St. Clare's in 1977 when I brought my 3-year-old daughter to Sunday school for the first time. She didn't want me to leave, and so I stayed....for over 25 years, teaching the preschool class with Patty Creal and Kay Long. I've been here ever since. I have served on the Vestry twice and on Genesis Board once and am currently serving as a substitute on Genesis Board. I have served on children's education and fellowship commissions, ushered for many years, and belong to a seekers group that has been meeting for over ten years. I am currently involved with the book club, the altar guild, a cell group, the "Adopt-a-plot" grounds folks, the "counters", and I serve with the 10:30 vergers. I think of St. Clare's as an extended family and I have formed many deep and lasting friendships with people whom I have gotten to know through our common devotion to this place and its life with the temple. I plan to be here for many years to come!

Nominees for Delegates to Diocesan Convention

For Diocesan Convention 2013, the following people have been nominated to serve as delegates: Christian Casper, Lucy Fuller, and Jessica Lowen; with Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, Pete Ross, and Mia Wotton as alternates.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Let the World Rejoice!

What a rich tradition of celebrating Jesus' birth with a pageant. The kids and teens did a stellar job. A big "thank you" to all the adults who helped make everything go so smoothly!



A Story A Day

Last year we had a New Year's Resolution Challenge to read a Bible story a day with our children. Let's keep up the good work! We'll have strips of paper again to represent the stories we've read. Please connect with Xan if you have any questions.

StorySong

StorySong meets every Tuesday from 4:30-5:00 pm in the family room. Join us for a time of singing, storytelling and basking in God's deep love for us and our children. If you haven't been able to join us, we hope the new year allows you to! Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan.

Pampering the Parents

It's time to pamper the parents (and the kids) again! On Sunday, January 13, parents with children (birth-6th grade) are invited to gather for time to connect, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and faith discussion. While the parents are at Ann Putallaz's house (2600 Gladstone), the kids will be playing at Jump City (2825 Boardwalk). Chaperones from St. Clare's will meet your children there at 4:00, feed them a snack, and have them ready for pick up at 6:00 pm. Parents will gather from 4:15-5:45 pm. The cost per child is \$5; please do not let the cost prohibit you from coming. Speak with Xan. And if you haven't RSVPed to Xan yet, please do so soon!

Family Faith Formation

Mark those brand new calendars or get these dates in your phone soon! Look for more information as the dates get closer.

- **2- to 5-year-olds and their Parents:**
Sunday, February 3, 4:00-5:30 pm
- **1st through 4th Graders and their Parents:**
Sunday, February 10, 4:00-5:30 pm
- **5th and 6th Graders and their Parents:**
Sunday, March 3, 3:45-5:45 pm

Church School Showcase

Our last **CHURCH SCHOOL SHOWCASE** for the school year is the Explorers' Class (2 & 3 year olds) on January 27. This is a great chance to see what God and the kids have been up to this year! Please join us when the bell rings at 10:15 am.

Summer Opportunities for Children and Youth

Mark those brand new calendars for these exciting opportunities (listed in chronological order with target age group noted in the description):

- **Vacation Bible School: June 18-20**
 St. Clare's, St. Andrew's, and First Presbyterian join to offer a fabulous VBS. The children "travel" back to Bible times and experience what it was like to be one of first followers of Jesus. *VBS is for kids who have completed grades K-5.*
- **Jr./Sr. High Mission Trip, June 23-28**
 This year's community service mission trip participants will go to Grand Rapids, MI. A terrific way to help people in real need while having a great time with new friends from across the country. *The trip is open to kids who have completed grades 6-12.* Contact Karen Slagell for details.
- **Camp Compassion: Diocesan Trip to Dominican Republic, June 29-July 6**
 Camp Compassion is the Annual Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Mission Trip. This year, we will be combining Camp Compassion with our D.R.E.A.M. initiative. D.R.E.A.M. is the **D**ominican **R**epublic and **E**piscopal churches in **A**ll of lower **M**ichigan project to help build a permanent church for Iglesia Episcopal San Simon. During this summer's weeklong mission, you will be involved in construction and relationship building. It is open to Youth and Young Adults starting with incoming High School Freshmen, space is limited, and the deadline for registering is February 1.
 More information here: <http://www.edomi.org/camp-compassion.html>
 and here: <http://www.edomi.org/images/yaya/Camp%20Compassion%20flyer%202013.jpg>.
- **Camp MichiLuCa: July 14-19 (all ages) OR July 21-26 (high school special programs)**
 Campers will learn about God and themselves by exploring the wonders of nature, trying new activities at camp (such as swimming, arts & crafts, nature walks), and participating in a fun Bible study time. Campers sing around the campfire, learn about themselves, and worship daily. It will truly be an experience they'll never forget! *Camps are available for kids who have finished 3rd through 12th grade; check camp materials for details [<http://www.elcalivingwater.com/summer/summer-programs/>].* Registration opens January 15. Save \$35/camper by registering and paying in full before March 15.
- **Bass Lake Festival: July 26-29**
 Bass Lake is a Christian Music Festival for High School aged youth which provides an "outside the box," grace-filled experience of the Christian faith. Through great music, unique learning opportunities, and a relaxed, community-building atmosphere, this event shares the Gospel with youth from all backgrounds and levels of maturity in a beautiful outdoor setting. *For youth who have completed grades 8-12.*
- **Music Theater Church Camp: August 26-31**
 Eighth annual Music Theater Church Camp at St. Clare's. A great way to spend the last week of summer for kids and parents alike! Join us for a week of singing, acting, swimming, and growing in our faith. *MTCC is for kids who have completed grades 1-7.*

Youth Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, January 3	4:45pm	Ypsilanti Salvation Army
Sunday, January 6	8:30-10:30am	St. Clare's Cafe
	2:00pm	Ross's Epiphany Open House (talk to Beth to arrange a ride from the party to Youth Group)
	3:45-5:45pm	Youth Group
Tuesday, January 8	4:15pm	Narnia rehearsals begin!
Saturday, January 12	2:00-5:00pm	The Bible: a Revelation of Love and Reconciliation, see details on page 3
Sunday, January 13	3:45-5:45pm	Youth group
Sunday, January 20	3:45-5:45pm	Youth group
Saturday, January 26	6:00-8:00pm	Prayer Partner Pizza and Pool Party
Sunday, January 27	3:45-5:45pm	Youth group

Prayer Partner Pizza and Pool Party

Join your prayer partner for a pizza and pool party on Saturday, January 26. Check out the details in the article on page 3!



– Erin Ranville and
Kevin Morgan

FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Faces of Faith

Sunday, January 13, 2 to 4 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor

In honor of Religious Freedom Day, you and your family are invited to participate in the next *FACES OF FAITH* event sponsored by The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. *FoF* allows you to meet people from your community who pose as "books" telling you the story of their personal spiritual journey. Each time you "borrow" a "book", you'll learn (one-on-one) about a different spiritual practice, religious belief, or turning point of faith. Each "reading period" is 20 minutes. Last year we had thirty-one books including Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Mennonites, Atheists/Humanists, Baha'is, Native Americans, Quakers, New Thought Christians, Protestants, Mormons, Catholics, Jews, and Eclectics. This year some will be returning and others will be added. \$5 suggested donation per person or family. For more information, call 734-424-1535 or email gbrides@umich.edu.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Scarves and Hats

We donated 43 scarves and 13 hats to the Cathedral Crafter's Fourth Annual Christmas Warmth Project! They were blessed at the Cathedral on December 9 and distributed at the Cathedral New Year's Feast.



PARISH COMMUNITY

Did You Know?

- **Hallie & John Prescott** are thrilled to announce the arrival of **Nora Christine Prescott**, born on December 2, weighing 7 lbs. Congratulations!
- **Laura & Michael Kozminski** are expecting twins this summer! We rejoice with them and eagerly await the arrival of the little ones.

Do you have news you would like to share? Email the details to editor@saintclareschurch.org.

January Birthdays

1	Emma and Joseph Rhodenhiser, Craig Trombley
2	Amy McKinley, Carolyn Sampsel, Courtney Smith
5	William Behringer, Paul Evett, Landon Ward, Dax Ward
6	Kris Anderson
7	Stephanie Smith
8	Katie Hopgood
11	Rob LaMoreaux
12	Sara Bond, Kristen Boyle-Heimann
14	Maura Moller
15	Erin Ranville
16	John Prescott
18	Jared Mercieca
19	Warren Palmer
22	Charlotte DeVries
27	Eleanor McKinney, Jeremy Pratt
28	Dick Levenick
30	Carolyn Clark
31	Matt Walters, Rhys Moller, Samantha Timmer

January Anniversaries

1	Linda & Herb Klimach
3	Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos & Ryan Seay
10	Mary & Norm McIver
14	Val Mercieca & Ilene Smith
24	Carolyn & John Clark

Is your birthday or anniversary missing (or, heaven forbid, wrong)? Contact the church office to update St. Clare's database! (662-2449 or office@saintclareschurch.org)

Have you remembered St Clare's in your will?



Use the St. Clare's Mobile ready response number!

CALL: 734-358-5141

This number will not be published to the public, but will allow any member or visitor to contact any member of the staff or office ministry team Tuesday – Friday 9am to 5pm. It will ring the landlines in the office, and every staff and office servant volunteer mobile phone able to answer. It will also allow you to leave a message if all of us are unavailable to speak.

Visit the Church Calendar online at:

www.saintclareschurch.org/calendar

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact James Rhodenhiser or Beth Scriven. If you would like us to share personal support requests with the parish, please tell us, and any "where," "when," and "how" information. If you are hospitalized or want prayer, please contact the church office.

St. Clare's Vestry

Kathy Daly, *Senior Warden*
Jim Downward, *Junior Warden*
Tim Kowaleski, *Junior Warden*
Bill Tucker
Christian Casper
Christine Cook
Ilene Smith
Karen Slagell
Laura Kozminski
Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos
Pete Ross
Rob LaMoreaux
Molly Reynolds, *Clerk*

St. Clare's Staff

James C. Rhodenhiser, *Rector*
Beth Scriven, *Associate Rector*
John Goodell, *Director of Music*
Xan Morgan, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Karen Slagell, *Parish Administrative Coordinator*

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firstname@saintclareschurch.org

Church Office:

office@saintclareschurch.org



The St. Clarian is published monthly. Contributions are welcomed; send by e-mail (to the editor at editor@saintclareschurch.org), U.S. mail, or drop off at the church office. The deadline for the February 2013 issue of the St. Clarian is Tuesday, January 15.